

A time of prayer

- *The world is God's temple.* Let us pray for the world:
– for the powerful, that they may know that the world belongs not to them but to the God of love and justice;

– for the powerless, that they may know that God is alongside them in their hunger, fear and suffering. (Silence)

The church is God's temple.

Let us pray for the church:

– for its leaders, that they may guide their people and the world to worship in word and deed;
– for the different denominations, that in unity they may come to know and worship the one, undivided God. (Silence)

We are God's temple.

Let us pray for ourselves:

– for churches meeting in buildings, that they and we may become sanctuaries for the lonely, the worried and the sad, peoples of love and hope;
– for each one of us, that our lives may be hymns of worship to the eternal God, sung in confidence and joy. (silence)

In the name of our High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name;

Thy kingdom come;

Thy will be done;

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen

Hymn: StF 618 Sacred the Body

Prayers of offering and a blessing: Generous God, Out of love you created all that is; Out of love you created humankind; Out of love you save us from the consequences of our sin. Out of love, we offer you ourselves and all that we have. Accept them and us, in the name of the second Adam, your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, now & evermore. **Amen.**

God, the Creator, fill you with joy.

God, the Redeemer, fill you with hope.

God, the Comforter, fill you with peace. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, now & evermore. **Amen.**

Original Materials by Rev Keith Burchell

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Coventry & Nuneaton Methodist Circuit

Worship is our Way of life!

Sunday, 14th August 2022

Readings:

Genesis 3: 1-15

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

***This sheet's content is exclusively
for worship***

Opening Prayer

May the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our minds be acceptable to you,
O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

Hymn: StF334 Praise to the Holiest in the height

Sing/ Read /pray or proclaim the words

Let us pray together

Prayer of adoration: Loving God, wherever we are, wherever we go, you are there. You created the world to be our home and our place of journeying. Your glory shines through the world and yet far transcends it. Loving God, we praise you, Creator of the World.

Loving God, wherever we are, wherever we go, you are there. You sent your only Son to be our guide, our companion, and our saviour. Your love shines through his life. Your love has conquered death. Loving God, we praise you, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Loving God, wherever we are, wherever we go, you are there. You have sent your Holy Spirit to warm our hearts, to challenge and encourage us. Your power shines through your people. Your power unites them in love. Loving God, we praise you, Giver of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Meditation: The apple shone among the leaves, glinting in the sunlight. The new-made world smelt soft and fresh. All was relaxed, nothing to strive for, totally laid back.

The apple glinted like a knife just out of reach on a tabletop. 'Don't touch, child Adam, child Eve. That hard, sharp knife, though of infinite use, can cut and scar and maim.'

The apple shone among the leaves. Its radiance burnt into their hearts; its fragrance excited their every thought. Child Eve reached up, picked it, ate it.

And it was very sharp.

Readings from the Old & New Testament

Genesis 3:1-15 1-Corinthians 3:16-17

Time to Reflect

If you read chapter 1&2 of Genesis before today's reading you will find: A high point – humans made in the image of God; then a low point – humans made from the dust of the earth. And now in chapter 3 there are the tensions when you put the two views together! The high point was the special **knowledge** needed to care for the earth and the animals. Now we get Adam and Eve in the garden with the serpent wanting to know more. Knowledge is a powerful thing: it can be used for good but also for evil. (Chemistry can be used to make pain killers, but also to make bombs.) Knowledge can also be a burden – we know we shall get old and die, but not enough to prevent it (if we wanted to!). We cannot keep the innocence of early childhood.

How do we get knowledge? One way is trial and error. Tell children not to do something, and they want to do it (like Adam and Eve!)

If it goes wrong, it can be disastrous, but often not. The serpent was right – they didn't die; well not yet – Adam was still fathering sons at age 105! See chapter 5.

This story is often taken as a story of how sin came into the world: they did wrong, the man blames the woman, the woman blames the snake. But are there other interpretations, as the Hebrew translated *crafty* could also be translated *clever* or *prudent*, which do not have sinister undertones. Likewise, Eve is often translated as Adam's *helper*, but it could be *partner*, which implies an equality of status, rather than a subordinate.

So, Eve wants to learn. She has more curiosity than Adam. She is willing to try things and take risks. And the snake asks a question – is it evil to ask questions?

Like Adam & Eve in the story wanting to learn, in our journey of life we have to learn and discover, re-learn and re-discover our dependence on God, and our knowledge of God; and we of course as Christians learn it through Jesus Christ.

Take a time to sit quietly

Hymn: StF 20 Be still